



Nutrition and HIV Program

USAID Kenya



USAID Kenya Mission Director Karen Freeman with Kenya's Ministry of Health Cabinet Secretary James Macharia at a September 5, 2014 launch of revised nutrition and HIV guidelines.

U.S. Presidential Initiatives:

- Global Health Initiative
- President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)



Funding Level:

\$21.5 million

Duration:

March 2008 – December 2014

Activity Goals:

- Increase access to nutritional therapy in and out of hospital settings
- Strengthen HIV care and treatment by improving the nutritional status of antiretroviral therapy clients, pre-antiretroviral therapy clients, orphans and vulnerable children, and HIV-infected pregnant and postpartum women
- Ensure the integration of food by prescription in HIV care and treatment, along with nutrition education and counseling

Activity Accomplishments:

- Supporting 198 primary health facilities that facilitate support to 742 satellite health facilities
- 341,544 Kenyans reached with improved nutrition
- 1,381 health care providers trained to prescribe and dispense food

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

The Nutrition and HIV Program supports the management of malnutrition and control of HIV-associated nutrition and health risks among people living with HIV, HIV-positive pregnant and postpartum women, and orphaned and vulnerable children. To do so, the Nutrition and HIV Program strengthens the capacity of National HIV/AIDS and STIs Control Program (NASCOP) under the Ministry of Medical Services and the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation and through collaboration with the Divisions of Clinical Nutrition, Public Health Nutrition and Community Health Services. The program also collaborates with faith-based organizations and civil society organizations providing nutrition assessment, counseling, and support services in health facilities and in the community.

ACTIVITY AREAS

The Nutrition and HIV Program provides technical assistance to NASCOP to implement nutritional assessment, counseling and support, and food by prescription. It also supports NASCOP and other stakeholders in advocacy to facilitate mainstreaming of nutrition services in care and treatment. To ensure sustainability, the program strengthens the capacity of health providers through the provision of job aids and client materials, supports monitoring and evaluation, and enhances community linkages. The program works with community-based organizations and facility outreaches to enhance their capacity for case finding and referral, and to provide nutritional support to moderately undernourished orphans and vulnerable children and vulnerable siblings.

To aid in the management and control of HIV-associated nutrition and health risks, the program provides nutritional and point-of-use water treatment commodities and selected equipment to health facilities. The supplied nutritional commodities are energy dense fortified blended flours and ready-to-use therapeutic foods. The program played a catalytic role in the launch of the first Kenya-produced ready-to-use therapeutic foods and rolling out of a dedicated supply chain for nutritional commodities.

Finally, the program works to optimize service delivery through a strong nutritional assessment, counseling and support, and food by prescription database and upload system.

Implementing Partner:
FHI 360

Key Partners:

National HIV/AIDS and STIs Control Program, under the Ministry of Medical Services and the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation; Divisions of Clinical Nutrition, Public Health Nutrition and Community Health Services; in collaboration with Faith-Based Organizations and Civil Society Organizations

Activity Locations:
Nationwide

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<http://pshi.fhi360.org/whatwedo/projects/nhp.html>

ACTIVITY IMPACT

Severely malnourished people living with HIV are four times more likely to die of complications than those who are not severely malnourished. Preventing malnutrition is a key objective in HIV and TB control programs. Compliance and adherence to antiretroviral (ARV) therapy is dependent upon the availability of food. Clients are more likely to take and tolerate ARV drugs taken orally if they are food secure. Adequately nourished patients also have a higher quality of life, are more productive, and better able to provide for their families. Restoration of nutrition and health of people living with HIV helps reduce stigma, lowers the burden of orphans, and reduces the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic.



USAID Kenya/Riccardo Gangale

Alex and his family (above) from Port Victoria, Busia have benefited from USAID and PEPFAR-supported nutrition and HIV activities. After acquiring HIV, Alex became too weak to continue fishing. Partnering with the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, USAID supported Alex to participate training that would help him become a farmer. Alex now earns enough money to support his family of six by selling fresh produce. Furthermore, Alex and his family now eat a healthy, balanced diet that helps Alex tolerate his ARV drugs and lead a more productive life.